AN ELEVENTH COMMANDMENT: CONSERVE YOUR PRECIOUS SOI

(IN COOPERATION WITH SOIL STEWARDSHIP WEEK MAY, 11-19)

(NOTE: In co-operation with National Soil Stewardship Week, May 11-18, we publish below as a timely message, parts of a Sermon: "Let Us Not Wither," by Rev. W. R. Gibble, of the First Christian Church, Vinita, Oklahoma.)

In Genessis 2:15 the Holy Scripture says, *"The Lord God took the man, and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it."* In the light of such admonition have you ever wondered why the great cities and vast populations of the Bibical lands no longer exist?

In the year 1939 the United States Government asked that question and sent one of its leading soil scientist to find out. Dr. Walter C. Lowdermilk and his party found Mesopotamia, the rich cradle of civilization, covered with small mountain ranges of silt. These silt beds were piled along the ancient irrigation ditches. Cities were buried under such silt deposits. There was to be seen evidence of ancient irrigation systems. What had been deep flowing streams were now dried cake beds. Forests had become deserts, till what had once supported perhaps more than 50 million population now had only 5 or 6 million. Such is the destruction that comes to a people who neglect God's Commandments. And the keeping of the soil is so included.

From his findings Dr. Lowdermilk reported the conclusion "That man's failure to be a good steward of God's gift to mankind was the direct cause of the waste and desolation" that he had witnessed.

He states that as he prepared to leave he was asked to make a radio broadcast in Jerusalem in which his findings would be summarized. He states that "Pondering what he might say, the night before, he wondered if Moses might not have added an 11th Commandment to the children of Israel had he been forewarned of the calamity to befall the land."

Dr. Lowdermilk wrote what he conceived would have been an appropriate commandment regarding the care of the soil.

In the summer of 1944 I was given a scholarship and the privilege of attending a special summer course. In that school Mr. Leon J. McDonald, better known as the "Soil Evangelist" was one of the instructors. I have known Mr. McDonald for many years, have heard him speak on many occasions. He knows soil conservation, and the need of it as few men know. After the school closed and I returned home, I received a letter from Mr. McDonald, dated July 6, 1944. In that letter Mr. McDonald included a copy of the commandment as suggested by Dr. Lowdermilk. It is as follows;

"Thou shalt inherit the holy earth as a faithful steward; conserving its resources and productivity from generation to generation. Thou shalt safeguard thy fields from soil erosion, thy living waters from drying up, the forest from desolation, and protect thy hills from overgrazing by thy herds, so that thy descendants may have abundance forever. If any shall fail in this stewardship of the land, thy fruitful fields shall become sterile, stony ground and wasting gullies, and thy descendants shall decrease or be destroyed from the face of the earth."

Such was the commandment Dr. Lowdermilk thought Moses might well have written. Of course we understand that Moses wrote only what God inspired him to write. For some reason, God has left much to be discovered and earned by man, and certainly experience and wisdom is sufficient to cause us to care for what God has graciously given. The soil among the precious gifts!

In the letter from Mr. McDonald was included also the following Indian story.

"On November 1, 1940 the Farmer Stockman published pictures of a gullied field and deserted house. They offered a cash prize of $25.00 to the individual who submitted the best 100 word story describing the pictures. 2,605 entries were received. The winning story written by E. O. Enfield, Arapahoe, Oklahoma, is reproduced here below.

"Both pictures show white man crazy. Mak tepee. Plow hill. Water wash; wind blow soil. gone, deer gone, squaw gone too. Papoose gon chuckaway, no pig, no corn, no cow, no hay, no "Indian no plow land. Keep grass. Buffalo Indian eat buffalo. Hide make tepee, make casin. Indian no make terrace, no build dam time eat. No hunt job, no hitch-hike, no ask No shoot pig. Great spirit make grass. Indi waste anything. Indian no work, white man loco."

On October 16,1938, the Chicago Daily carried the following editorial written by Sa North, Editor.

"It takes a rich land to support a Demo Every time you see a dust cloud or a muddy a a field scarred by erosion or a channel chocke silt you are witnessing the passing of America mocracy . . the crop called man can wither lik other."

We are not owners, but stewards of the ti which we live. We can not talk of the earth riches without talking of God. Certainly Christian should be keenly aware of that fact. out God there would be no earth, no warmth sun, no refreshing rain, no birds, no animals, no living thing.

To men of Old Testament times God spo suring them of His divine ownership. To Mo the mountain top, He said, *"If you will ob voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my sion among all peoples, for all the earth is Ex. 19:5*

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LET GOD HAVE HIS WAY

CHURCH NEWS

Wesleyan Guild

Trinity Wesleyan Service of Appomattox Circuit met Tom Kearns on Monday May 5. The meeting was order by the president, ert Morris. Mrs. Martin led the devotion, and Mrs. Martin had charge of the , using as her topic: "The f Mission Dollars." A pledge was rendered, and a one- with three scenes. Those es in this play were Mrs. Morris, Mrs. Kenneth Cole- Mrs. Hutson Morris.

the meeting was adjourned refreshments were served hostess.

attending the annual Wes- Service Guild conference in May 8 from Trinity, Appo- Circuit, were: Mrs. Robert Miss Jane Moore, Mrs. Da- ein, Mrs. Tom Kearns, Mrs. Coleman, Mrs. Ralpa Cole- Martin Coleman and Mrs. Morris. Also attending were Beverley Martin and Mrs. Her- Moore, Jr.

Appomattox Methodist Circuit
Aaron D. Smith, Pastor
A. M. Trinity.
"Loyalty of Motherhood."
5 A. M. Bethel.
"Ministry of Mothers."

New Hope Baptist Church
Charles R. Addington, Pastor
Sunday School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 A. M.
B. T. U., 7:00 P. M.
Evening Worship, 8:00 P. M.
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7:30 P. M. (tf)

Bethany Pentecostal Holiness Church
D. L. le Roux, Pastor
Sunday School, 10 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11 A. M.
Youth Service, 1 P. M.
Evening Worship, 7:30 P. M.
Wednesday night Prayer Meeting 7:30 P. M.
(1tf)

Liberty Baptist Church
Rev. H. Frederick Jones
Supply Minister
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11 A. M.
B. T. U., 6:30 P. M.
Evening Service, 7:30 P. M.
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday at 8:00 P. M. Evening Worship 7:30 P. M.
Nursery open for infants through three years of age.

St. Ann's Episcopal Church
Rotgation (Petition) Sunday
10 A. M. Church School.
11 A. M. Morning Prayer and Sermon. —Peter Fulghum.

Liberty Chapel Baptist Church
Rev. S. A. Dean, Pastor
Sunday School, 10:00 A. M.
Preaching: 1st and 3rd nights, at 7:30.
2nd and 4th mornings, at 11:00. (tf)

Bible Baptist Church
Rev. Jerry Jennings, of Lynchburg, will be the guest speaker May 11 - 17 for the revival services at the Bible Baptist Church. Special singing will be featured at each service. Services will begin promptly at 7:30 P. M.
The public is cordially invited.

Memorial Methodist Church
Richard A. Bergdoll, Pastor
Sunday School, 10 A. M.
C. W. Smith, Superintendent.
11:00 A. M. Morning Worship.
Sermon subject: "What Would Mother Think?"
7:30 P. M. Evening Worship.
A Drama Presentation: "Famous Mothers."

Seventh-day Adventist Church
Services Every Sabbath
W. P. Lawrence, Pastor
Phone 4451, Appomattox, Va.
Sabbath School, 9:30 A. M.
Worship Service, 11:00 A. M.
Subject: "Come Now Let Us Reason Together."
M. V. Meeting, Friday night, at 7:45.
Welcome.
One week from this Saturday Pastor H. J. Chapman, newly elected President of the Potomac Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be guest speaker at the regular worship service. A special invitation to the public for this special service, May 17, at 11 A. M. (tf)

DEATHS

Thomas Hancock Agee

Thomas Hancock Agee, 67, of 204 Portland place, Richmond, died Friday at a hospital in that city. He was a pioneer in the wholesale laundry business and co-founder of the Acme Laundry Co., Richmond, first wholesale laundry service in the South catering to commercial establishments. He had been in the business for 40 years. He was a member of the First Baptist Church, Northside Lodge No. 292 AF&AM, Royal Arch Chapter No. 37, and the Richmond Scottish Rite.

Mr. Agee was a native of Appomattox. He was the son of the late Whitcomb A. and Ella Clement Taylor Agee.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Hallie Tolley Agee; a daughter, Mrs. Daniel M. Cohan, of Garden City, N. Y.; a son, Thomas H. Agee, Jr., of Charlottesville; two foster daughters, Mrs. Raymon A. A. Parrish and Mrs. T. Douglas Goodwin, both of Richmond; three brothers, Charles A. Agee, of Tampa; Clarence A. Agee, of Appomattox, and Dewey S. Agee, of Atlanta; two sisters, Mrs. T. W. Rosen, of Richmond, and Mrs. Douglas Doss, of Miami; and two grandchildren.

A funeral service was held at 3 P. M. Monday at Bennett Funeral Home, Richmond, with burial in the Forest Lawn Cemetery.

A HOUSE DIVIDED

Saumur, France.- Louis Leboue had a quarrel with his wife, and marched out and banged the door so hard the house fell down. Firemen helped Leboue rescue his wife from the rubble.

Rocks

Rocks, May 5.- Farm work seems to be at a standstill now.

Loyd Richardson had charge of the prayer service on Tuesday night and brought a very fine message.

Several from around here were visiting Jim Frank Ranson at the Southside Hospital in Farmville last week. He is improving and hopes to be home soon.

Rev. Joseph R. Darden was away in a revival meeting last week.

Army Pv't, Otis Richardson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Richardson, of Pamplin, recently completed 8 weeks training at Fort Knox, Ky., and arrived early on Sunday morning to spend a furlough here before going to Houston, Texas.

The Home Demonstration Club had its May meeting with Mrs. D. R. Inge on Thursday night.

Misses Louise, Mary Edith and Ruth Ranson spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Ranson and family, of Richmond.

Rev. Joseph R. Darden preached his farewell sermon last night. Quite a few went out. One joined by letter, and one accepted Christ for the first time.

Mr. and Mrs. Loyd Richardson were visiting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Richardson Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Farrar and Rev. and Mrs. Joseph R. Darden were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Ranson Sunday.

Cassie Baldwin spent Saturday with her aunt, Mrs. George Carter, of near Sheppards.

Make plans now to attend the Daily Vacation Bible School at the Rocks Baptist Church in June. Time to be announced later.

Mrs. M. H. Marks accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Thurman Wilcox and Anita home Sunday for a visit.

Friends are sorry to hear that James Dinkins is in the Virginia Baptist Hospital for an operation.

Several from here attended the funeral of Mrs. T. J. Cawthorne at Hollywood last Wednesday afternoon.

A Bible School Clinic will be held at the church on Friday night at 7 P. M. All workers please be present.

Play safe — drive carefully.

Definition

Peace: The period during which the licked nation prepares to get even. —Buffalo News.

Pain Killer Being Tested

San Francisco.- A drug 100 times stronger than morphine in pain-killing ability has been produced and is being tested on humans and animals.

It offers chemists an opening to develop a new line of better as well as stronger, pain-killers, according to a drug researcher, at Cutter Laboratories, Berkeley, California.

On May 13, 1908, by act of Congress, the U. S. Navy Nurse Corps was established.

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Potatoes	10 lbs.	47c
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Cabbage	3 lbs.	13c
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N-1

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1—1952 CHEVROLET — 2 Ton — Regular Wheel Base.

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